

There are quite a number of records for eastern Massachusetts, the latest appearing to be as follows: One reported by Torrey, Marshfield, Aug. 15, 1889 (O. & O., Sept., 1889); one by Miller, Provincetown, Sept. 11, 1890 (Auk, Jan., 1891); one by Mackay, Nantucket, Nov. 20, 1890 (Auk, Jan., 1891); one by Cory (young of the year), Hyannis, Aug. 30, 1891 (Auk, Oct., 1891). The first named is of special interest, being in the spotted plumage and accompanied by three or four others, a fair inference being that a brood had been hatched in the vicinity.

The breeding of the species farther west, near Springfield, has been a matter of several records, the latest, I think, being that of R. O. Morris (Auk, Jan., 1892), who says "a pair passed this, the fourth successive season, in West Springfield."

In view of the above, can we not abandon the cage bird idea for this section?—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

The Willow Thrush (*Turdus fuscescens salicicolus*) a Migrant in Northeastern Illinois.—I am indebted to Mr. Ridgway for the identification of two "very typical" specimens of this Thrush that were collected by the writer the past spring (1894), at Glen Ellyn, Ill., a male being secured on the 6th and a female on the 21st of May.

Since Mr. Coale's original record,¹ only one other specimen, taken by him at Ravenia, Ill., May 17, 1890, referred to in July, 1894, number of 'The Auk,' and now in the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, has been taken to my knowledge in this State. It is of interest, therefore, to note that on the day of the last capture, May 21, at least two others were seen.

This fall I have found it to be a regular migrant here, specimens being taken Aug. 29 (the date of my 'first,' although a doubtful record, was made three days earlier), and again on Sept. 4, when one was also noticed. Others were here Sept. 1 (1) and Sept. 6 (2); the last one, a single bird, was recorded on the 8th of the month.

In view of the foregoing, supplemented with the general information furnished me by Dr. Merriam, some time ago, that the Agricultural Department at Washington has on file additional Mississippi Valley records of *salicicolus*, it would be well for the observers of Illinois in particular to keep a better lookout for this bird, as it will doubtless prove to be more plentiful with us than has been previously supposed.—BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Ill.*

Two Records from Keokuk, Iowa.—On the 16th of December, 1892, I shot a specimen of *Juncos hyemalis shufeldti* on the Illinois shore just opposite this city. It was with several other Juncos, all, as far as I could tell, of the common variety.

¹ Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, p. 239.

On the 10th of November, 1894, a boy brought me a *Somateria spectabilis* that he had shot on the Mississippi. It was a male in brown plumage, but showing a few white and black feathers. The stomach contained nothing but fine quartz gravel. — WM. E. PRAEGER, *Keokuk, Iowa.*

Connecticut Notes.—Through the kindness of Mr. H. Hoyt I am enabled to report the capture here of a male specimen of the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*). The bird was knocked over with an oar, in September, 1879, and brought in to Mr. Hoyt. He preserved the skin and it is now in my collection.

During the summer and fall of 1894 the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) was quite common. I secured ten specimens, all males, during August and September.

Lincoln's Finch (*Melospiza lincolni*) has been observed in Stamford during the past year, and three specimens have been taken — one in the fall and two in the spring.

On Jan. 19, 1894, a farmer brought in a fine female Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). The bird was shot while eating a pigeon taken from the barnyard.

During the spring of 1894 the writer took two sets of the eggs of the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*); one of six eggs on May 26, and one of five on June 9. — LEWIS H. PORTER, *Stamford, Conn.*

Bird Notes from Springfield, Massachusetts.—Last year, upon a narrow platform, under the cornice of a building six stories high in the center of the business portion of Springfield, a pair of Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) built their nest and the female deposited therein a set of five eggs, which were successfully hatched. The young were then taken and removed to the roof of the building and placed in a box, and were followed there and cared for by the parents until they were fully grown. Any one going on to this roof and near the nest would be assailed by one of the old birds who would dart at the intruder from the spire of a neighboring church, where one of the parents was usually stationed. These facts seem remarkable when it is considered that the incubation and rearing were in the very heart of a busy city of fifty thousand people. Two of the young are still kept here in confinement.

Mr. E. H. Barney is devoting several acres of land near his home in the suburbs of Springfield to the cultivation of numerous kinds of trees and shrubs that long retain their seeds, hoping thereby to attract various kinds of birds, that he and others may study their habits. To this place, early in the autumn, a flock of about fifty Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) came and remained several days. Heretofore these birds have not been observed here, except occasionally singly or, more rarely, in pairs.